

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment After Final has been prepared and is being filed in response to the February 1, 2008 Final Office Action taken in relation to the above-identified case.

In that Action, the Examiner, citing and applying completely new references in this case, has rejected claims 1 and 4 in the application, the only claims therein, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,024,500 to Ashizaki *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0014640 of Loyd.

In combining these two references, whether appropriately or not, the Examiner asserts that while the Ashizaki *et al.* reference supposedly illustrates certain of the claimed features of applicant's invention, *it does not teach encrypting only the content-field portion of data contained within the content-command part of a print job.* The Examiner, following his stated recognition of this deficiency in the Ashizaki *et al.* reference, urges that the Loyd reference does describe such content-field-portion encrypting only -- referring applicant to Fig. 3, reference numeral 54 in the Loyd drawings, and to paragraph [0023] in the Loyd specification.

Applicant appreciates the attention which the Examiner has paid to the need to search the prior art for a teaching relating to segmented encryption of only the content-field portions of the content-command parts in print jobs, but disagrees completely with the Examiner's conclusion that the Loyd reference teaches such "content-field" segmented encryption.

It is clear from a reading of Loyd, that Loyd describes an indiscriminate print-job encryption practice wherein it makes no difference where and how (in a print-job) actual encryption takes place. According to Loyd, such "wherever" encryption is acceptable so long as

that encryption assures, at the *user-printing end* of the flow of encrypted print-job information, *that paired-key cryptography is in place* in order to control the matter of identifying a specific, singular, private-key-holding person who is the only one to be permitted to receive and see a decrypted version of the print job.

Loyd offers *no recognition* that such indiscriminate encryption will block access to the very non-content-element print-job data which applicant's content-field/non-content-field discrimination guards from encryption, so that various, important post-rendering, *pre-printing*, print-job analysis and job-management activities may be carried out as a print job moves toward printing. Failing this recognition, Loyd is a non-effective reference in this case.

Thus, there is absolutely nothing in the Loyd reference which makes any nod at all toward an understanding of the fact that a content command part of a print job includes *segmentable content-field and non-content field portions*. Loyd offers no recognition whatsoever of the importance, focused upon by applicant's invention, of positively preserving, against encryption, non-content-field data which is needed in a pre-printing stage of print-job handling to enable special management of certain aspects of print jobs.

Accordingly, the Examiner-suggested importing of Loyd encryption (referred to erroneously on page 3 in the Examiner's comments as "Ishibashi" encryption) into the Ashizaki *et al.* reference, regardless of whether or not such is a permissible reference-importation act, will do nothing to achieve, or even to suggest achieving, applicant's claimed invention which includes the mentioned, important content-field/non-content-field segregation.

For the above reasons, applicant proposes no changes in the two claims which are

presented for examination in this application, and asserts that the Examiner does not have a supportable § 103(a) rejection of applicant's claims, inasmuch as neither reference recognizes, or even remotely suggests, the important practice, claimed by applicant, of dividing the command-content portion of a print job *into its two relevant fields, with only the content-field portion receiving encryption treatment.*

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this application, and early allowance now of both claims presented therein, are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

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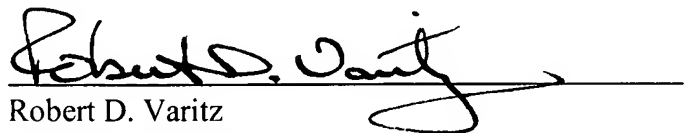
Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Varitz", is written over a horizontal line.

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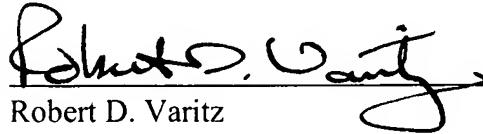
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